

REMARKS

Claims 6-10 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 6-8 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by SUEHIRO, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0122478 A1).

While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's prior art rejection, to speed prosecution and by this Amendment, claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13 and claims 1-5 and 11-20 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

It is noted that any claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

Applicant requests acknowledgement of the priority documents which were filed during the international (PCT) stage. Accordingly, it is noted that Applicant need not file such certified copies in the present U.S. national stage Applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-10, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to